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Letter from Floride Lee to her grandfather, 1885 July 4

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Leaside

July 4th 1885.

Dear Grandpa:

I have let my canary out into the room this morning to have a little fly, and he is now perched on my head singing so loud that he nearly deafens me. He is very tame, and likes to perch on my head or finger.

We are going to be very patriotic this fourth of July. Papa has bought us forty packs of fire crackers, two dozen Roman candles, and some bengal lights. We have all three flags on the front piazza. The big flag is dropping to pieces. It

looks as if it had been in some great battle, and been shot to pieces. Papa said perhaps he would set off the fire-works on top of the Summer-house hill, and then they could be seen all over the country. I am going to try and coax Papa to let me fire off a gun, but he seems to think that girls have no business with fire-arms. Aunt Maggie doesn't like the idea of noise at all. Andy was so dreadfully frightened when Papa set off some of the fire crackers this morning, that he sneaked off with his tail between his legs and hid under the steps.

We are all pretty well.

Yours lovingly

Florida Lee.